EGRM-12/2021/INF.5
Room document for Expert Group on Resource Management, 12th Session
26-30 April 2021

Report of the EGRM Technical Advisory Group

TAG Report
Oct 2020 – April 2021
Outline

- TAG and WGs Organisation and Scope
- Overview of activities & achievements since EGRM-11
- UNFC Update Task Force recommendations
- Status of UNFC
## TAG Membership

### April 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role/Group</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Alistair Jones</td>
<td>Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Ulrich Kral</td>
<td>Anthropogenic Working Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Sigurd Heiberg</td>
<td>Commercial Working Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Kevin Parks</td>
<td>Groundwater Working Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Karin Ask</td>
<td>Injection Working Group</td>
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<td>Mr Johann Gotsis</td>
<td>Minerals Working Group</td>
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<td>Mr King Lee</td>
<td>Nuclear Fuel Working Group</td>
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<td>Mr Satinder Purewal</td>
<td>Petroleum Working Group</td>
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<td>Mr Jeremy Webb</td>
<td>Renewables Working Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Julian Hilton</td>
<td>SDG Working Group (reports directly to Bureau)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Claudio Virues*</td>
<td>Social &amp; Environmental Working Group (David Elliott to 23/9/20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Maria Capello &amp; Ms Cristina Robinson</td>
<td>Women in Resource Management</td>
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* Claudio Virues and Jim Jenkins co-chair the S&E WG, but Claudio represents the WG on TAG

**Observers**

- Mr David MacDonald (EGRM Chair), Ms Charlotte Griffiths (UNECE), Mr Hari Tulsidas (UNECE)

All (current and retired) are thanked for their dedicated leadership of Working Groups and for their wise and constructive guidance as members TAG
“The main responsibility of the TAG is to review and validate documents proposed by the Working Groups. It is also responsible for coordination and support of the commodity Working Groups.”

- Review Working Group goals, objectives and plans
- Maintain awareness of Working Group progress, opportunities & issues. Keep Bureau informed
- Facilitate support across Working Groups
- Ensure appropriate and timely review of sectoral WG documents
- Manage requests for assistance or advice

Document Reviews

- Undertaken by appropriate experts drawn from the Working Groups and other experts, as required
Working Group Role

generic description – priorities will differ between Working Groups

- Develop and maintain sector/resource specifications, guidelines and best practice documents
- Provide advice on interpreting, applying and/or mapping to UNFC
- Assist in stakeholder engagement for the application of UNFC
- Assist stakeholders to develop and maintain bridging documents
- Work with stakeholders to develop case studies
- Assist with reviews of documents, and provide expert advice

Generic description – priorities will differ between Working Groups

Working Groups are volunteer so capacity is limited
# TAG WG activities & achievements

**Oct 2020 – April 2021**

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<tr>
<th>UNFC Specifications &amp; Bridging Documents</th>
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<tr>
<td>Groundwater Specs - draft</td>
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<td>Minerals Specs - draft</td>
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<td>Nuclear Specs - draft</td>
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<td>Common glossary</td>
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<td>Anthropogenic Specs update</td>
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<td>Geothermal Specs update</td>
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<tr>
<th>CRIRSCO/UNFC bridging update</th>
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<td>Chinese Minerals and Petroleum bridging updates</td>
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<td>Guidance for Social and Environmental Considerations for UNFC</td>
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<td>UNFC applied to Commercial Assessments – Introductory Guidance</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFC applied to commercial assessments- Update &amp; achievements</td>
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<td>Application of UNFC to Renewable Energy</td>
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<td>Advancing Women in Resource Management: Activity Report 2021</td>
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<td>Azerbaijan Petroleum Case Study</td>
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<td>Coalbed Methane work</td>
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<th>Feedback to consultation by Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance on &quot;Alliance 2025 Target Setting Protocol&quot;</th>
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<td>Feedback to IFRS Foundation Consultation Paper on Sustainability Reporting</td>
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<td>Feedback to consultation by FSB’s Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosures</td>
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<tr>
<td>How UNFC can help channel investments into energy and resource projects for sustainable development</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFC Europe: Ensuring sustainable raw material management to support the European Green Deal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phosphates for sustainable development: Fertilisers and phosphogypsum in the circular economy</td>
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<td>Women in Mining: Global Perspective</td>
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<td>Training Workshop on Guidelines and best practices for MSMEs</td>
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<td>Training workshop Women entrepreneurship in natural resource management</td>
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Task Force on UNFC Resource Specifications
Purpose, Membership and Approach

- **Purpose**
  - To review UNFC resource specifications and provide recommendations on consistency, clarity and ease of use, updating for UNFC (2019) and on a common glossary. This will provide input to the Working Groups in updating resource specifications, and to TAG reviewers when reviewing the updates

- **Membership**
  - all TAG WGs were invited to be represented
  - 13 members (see title slide) from most of the WGs

- **Approach**
  - Regular TF calls to review progress, discuss issues and agree plan. The Secretariat (Charlotte Griffiths and Hari Tulsidas) joined many of the calls
  - The published and draft resource-specific specifications, available up to October 2020, were reviewed for consistency with UNFC (2019), clarity and ease of use, and considered in learning lessons and making recommendations
  - Sub-teams worked on different aspects i) Scope, Contents and Structure, ii) EFG Axis, iii) Glossary and Abbreviations
  - The draft report was sent to TAG WGs for comment
  - The Task Force reviewed, discussed and agreed the I report
How Work of 3 Sub-teams Fits Together

**UNFC (2019) and Guidance Documents**

- **EFG Axis Sub-team**
  - Identify inconsistencies between UNFC 2019 and resource specifications in terms of supporting explanations and guidance for E, F and G categories. Recommend common terminology, content, level of detail and format, and where flexibility or additional resource-specific content may be appropriate.

**Resource-specific Specifications**

- **Scope, Contents and Structure Sub-team**
  - Recommend the appropriate scope, similar content and structure of the resource-specific specifications and where flexibility or additional resource-specific content may be appropriate.

- **Definitions and Guidance Sub-team**
  - Propose which concepts and terms should be defined in a common glossary and which in resource-specific texts and glossaries. Propose on what aspects guidance should be provided in the resource-specific specifications. Recommend common definitions, guidance.
Recommendation to Harmonize UNFC docs

Incremental approach to achieve consistency and clarity
- common terminology; harmonized scope, contents & structure; EFG definitions

Now
v1.0

Medium-term
v2.0 – limited harmonization, incremental update of current resource-specific specifications

Long-term
v3.0 – full harmonization and simplification, significant revision of all UNFC documents
Summary of Recommendations

- **Version v2.0** – limited harmonization, incremental update of current resource-specific specifications
  - **UNFC (2019) and guidance documents**: no change from current versions
  - **Terminology**: Develop and adopt common glossary. Update terminology, axis names, class and sub-class names to be consistent with UNFC (2019). (A draft Glossary is proposed in the report.)
  - **Scope, contents structure**: reorganize current contents - harmonized titles, common contents page + optional sub-headings in each resource-specific specification. Reorganize content of current resource-specific specifications, but fit into new common structure. Reference/add any missing common content.
  - **EFG definitions**: Align with 2019 UNFC. Ensure that they are still fit for purpose and amend if necessary. Follow examples of good practice in current documents. Harmonize across resources

- **Version v3.0** – full harmonization and simplification, significant revision of all UNFC documents
  - **UNFC (2019) and guidance documents**: Revise - incorporate all common material into updated UNFC (2019). If EFG decision trees are deemed useful, they can be at the UNFC guidance level.
  - **Terminology**: **Same as v2.0**. Develop and adopt common glossary. Update terminology, axis names, class and sub-class names to be consistent with UNFC (2019).
  - **Scope, contents structure**: More significant revision that v2.0. Revise current contents to have common contents pages and only include functional requirements. Add case studies or generic examples?
  - **EFG definitions**: More significant revision than v2.0. Adopt a similar level (quality and format) of additional explanation for EFG categories for each resource-specific specification. Could we provide universal E axis guidance? Eliminate repetition of EFG text already contained in UNFC and focus specifications on sector specific guidance.
Executive Summary

Benefits, Limitations/Costs of Updates

Version v2.0 — limited harmonization, incremental update of current resource-specific specifications, no changes to UNFC (2019)
- Achieves consistency of terminology with UNFC (2019); some harmonization
- Easy and rapid to implement: no change to UNFC (2019), each resource-specific specification can be updated and published when ready, primary changes are terminology and reorganisation
- Opportunity to make incremental improvements to resource-specific specifications e.g. adopt good practice from other documents, no longer require Generic Renewable Specifications
- Harmonization is limited, UNFC documents remain quite complex to use, current weaknesses of UNFC (2019) not addressed. Some hesitant to adopt because of these weaknesses.

Version v3.0 — full harmonization and simplification, significant revision of all UNFC documents
- Achieves much greater level of harmonization, simplification and ease of use of UNFC and resource-specific specifications. Makes future updates easier.
- Requires more work and more coordination between WGs: agreeing significant changes to organise content between documents and to achieve as much consistency as possible
- Opportunity to make substantive updates to correct current weaknesses in UNFC (2019), and align with requirements of UNRMS which may emerge. UNFC (2019) was a light touch update of UNFC (2009) which focussed on updating terminology. The possibility of a future substantive update was recognised at the time.
- Possible substantive updates: allow additional project metrics, distinguish between projects and assets, move “commitment” to E axis from F1.2, add granularity to E2, address concerns that E3.1 is not a maturity sub-category, remove G4 and use G1/2/3 as F3 identifies Prospective Projects, add F4.4 for notional/undefined projects using existing technologies, add information on barriers, address implications of the change in view of quantities from “in-place” in UNFC (2009) to “not produced” in UNFC (2019).
- Making substantive updates may be disruptive to users and undermine adoption.
**Recommended Next Steps for Implementation**

**Develop v2.0 then v3.0, Define Update Strategy**

- **v2.0**: limited harmonization, incremental update of current resource-specific specifications. No change to UNFC (2019)
  - Develop and publish v2.0 asap e.g. Sep 2021. Some may take longer if a WG lacks active members

- **v3.0**: full harmonization and simplification, revision of all UNFC documents
  - Develop v3.0 updates of UNFC (2019), guidelines and resource-specific specifications. Earliest publication Sep 2023?

**New TF finalize common glossary**
- 2 WGs pilot v2.0
  - 1 renewable (e.g. geothermal) & 1 other resource specification

**New TF define v3.0**
- Contents of revised UNFC (2019) and resource-specific specifications defined
- Work required to move all docs to v3.0 defined

**Status April 2021**
- Common Glossary: in progress
- Pilot updates: Anthropogenic and Geothermal initiated; new draft specs link to UNFC (2019), incorporate recommendations on content to varying degrees
- Definition of v3 postponed, awaiting clarification of vision & UNRMS requirements

**Recommendations**
- v2.0 required soon - important to achieve alignment of all resource-specific specifications.
- v3.0 will be required in the longer-term to achieve simplification of UNFC for ease of use and future updating and to decide whether substantive changes are required.
- More universal terminology
- Groundwater, Minerals, Nuclear, Petroleum drafts published
- Bridging doc updates progressing
- Common Glossary and updated specifications in progress
- Guidance developed
- Communication and promotion: successful webinars, interactions with other standards-setting SDG initiatives
Thank you!

Alistair Jones
TAG Chair
UNECE
Date 27 I 04 I 2021, Geneva